



**OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Hotline Complaint Form

Your Hotline Complaint Form E002030 has been submitted and received by The OIG. Thank You.

Anyone with knowledge of fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement involving the U.S. Department of the Interior should call or write the Office of Inspector General's Hotline (please choose the method of contact which best suits you):

- Telephone - OIG Hotline's Toll Free Number: 1-800-424-5081
- Fax - Complete and submit the Complaint Form to:
703-487-5402 (Attention: Hotline Operations)
- US Mail - Complete and submit the Complaint Form to:
Office of Inspector General
Department of the Interior
381 Eilden Street, Suite 3000
Attention: Intake Management Unit
Herndon, VA 20170
- E-mail - Complete and submit the Complaint Form by pressing the submit button below:

You may also report fraudulent activities to the nearest regional OIG offices at the following locations:

- Eastern Regional Office, Herndon, Virginia (703) 487-8051
- Central Regional Office, Lakewood, Colorado (303) 236-8296
- Western Regional Office, Sacramento, California (916) 978-5630

Alleged Misconduct

Who committed the alleged misconduct/wrongdoing? (What is the title/position held by the alleged wrongdoer? Please include names, addresses and telephone numbers of victims and witnesses. If providing information concerning contractor or grantee fraud, please provide the name of the primary contractor or sub, type of contract, contract or grant numbers, the date of the award and name of agency official.)

What exactly did the individual(s) do that was wrong? (Please provide specific and relevant details concerning the alleged misconduct/wrongdoing.)

Hiring qualified personnel at grade levels less than what they qualify for. Hiring personnel at grade levels higher than what they qualify for. [REDACTED] (no longer working with the BLM) was hired around August 2015 as a Natural Resource Specialist at grade level 9 in the Carlsbad, NM field office (CFO). To qualify for this grade level one must either (1) have worked in the position for at least one year or (2) have 2 years of graduate school education in a qualifying discipline. Go to: <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/#url=Group-Standards>. <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/0400/general-natural-resources-management-and-biological-sciences-series-0401/>. Per conversations with others in the Carlsbad, NM field office, [REDACTED] does not have any graduate school education and does not possess prior experience before being hired on at the Carlsbad, NM BLM Field Office. [REDACTED] (unknown hire date, possibly late 2016) was hired as a GS-7 Hydrologist in the CFO despite possessing qualifications making her eligible for a GS-9 position. [REDACTED] (unknown hire date, possibly in 2015) was hired on as a Petroleum Engineering Technician at a grade level lower than what she qualified for, despite possessing Ph.D. level education. It is my understanding that employees are to be hired at the grade levels they qualify for. It is my understanding that HR refused higher grade levels for [REDACTED] despite their protest. It is true that they accepted the lower grade level offers; however, it is my understanding that new personnel must be hired at the grade level they qualify for. I speculate that favoritism is shown for locals over non-locals as locals are less likely to leave the office to pursue career changes than non-locals (Carlsbad is geographically very remote). [REDACTED] is from the Carlsbad area and from a ranching family. [REDACTED] are not from the Carlsbad area originally. I am concerned that this type of hiring may not follow regulations/rules and is un-fair to those that qualify for higher grade levels but are hired on at lower grade levels.

When did the misconduct/wrongdoing occur? (Please provide dates and times, if possible.)

See above for hire dates. Dates can be obtained from the employees mentioned above or from Human Resources.

Where did the misconduct/wrongdoing occur? (Please provide the bureau or office, city and state.)

<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/0400/general-natural-resources-management-and-biological-sciences-series-0401/> <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/#url=Group-Standards> [REDACTED]

How was the misconduct/wrongdoing committed? (i.e. falsifying documents, etc.)

Unknown

you have first hand knowledge of the misconduct/wrongdoing?

No

Where can we obtain additional information concerning this misconduct/wrongdoing? (i.e. documents, etc.)

<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/0400/general-natural-resources-management-and-biological-sciences-series-0401/> <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/#url=Group-Standards> [REDACTED]

Who else might be aware of this misconduct/wrongdoing? (Please provide names, addresses and telephone numbers) How would this individual know about this?

I prefer to remain anonymous out of concern for retribution.

Complainant

1/16/2018

https://forms.doiig.gov/hotlinecomplaint_form.aspx

Are you willing to be interviewed concerning this matter? If so please provide your name, address and telephone number, and the best time to contact you. You can provide contact information for us to follow-up with additional questions and still remain confidential.

Your E-Mail address (optional)

If you wish to remain confidential, please select: (For a description of Confidentiality, please refer to the "Your Rights" page.)
Confidential:

Yes

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